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Youth Targeting Tool Workshop Session

JPV analyzes the series of indicators that will become part of the Youth Targeting Tool (YTT).



PHOTO: JPV

Francisco Almanza, JPV's at-risk youth specialist, engages participants regarding the tools used to target youth populations in at-risk communities.

"There was an enriching dialogue between those CSOs that directly work with at-risk youth at the ground level and those that focus on the technical design and operations of prevention programs; despite contrasts in the types of field work and research methodology, both sides highlighted how generating a series of specific indicators (behavior, actions by at-risk youth) could help design the Youth Targeting Tool."

— Francisco Almanza, JPV

In order to better assess the risk factors and behaviors as well as protective factors related to at-risk youth programs, JPV facilitated a workshop on April 27 aimed at changing the approach implemented by violence prevention programs in Mexico. The workshop gathered nearly 30 experts from civil society, research institutions and academia, and provided a space for participants to rethink the indicators associated with targeted prevention tools.

The Youth Targeting Tool will allow local actors to refocus their efforts when working with at-risk youth populations, recognizing the inherent conditions (risk and protective factors) and the behavior of said youth. The workshop emphasized how targeted interventions should focus in changing the behavior of those who could be more likely to engage or act violently, since the level of risk in a given community is correlated to the risk factors faced by a small group of the at-risk youth population living within that community.

Participants agreed that an effective tool that meets the needs of these communities does not label youth populations, but rather takes into account the historical, social, cultural and individual context of said population. By jointly defining these indicators, we believe targeted interventions will not only be able to identify the risk factors and behavior of the at-risk youth, but also generate evidence related to their behavior change through their participation in prevention programs implemented by local actors.